

# **Frequently Asked Questions Childcare Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) & Summer Childcare P-EBT (\*\* New)**

2021-2022 School Year (*August 5, 2022*)

---

## **Q1: What is Childcare P-EBT?**

A: It is a temporary food benefit approved by the federal government to help households with children under 6 years old during the COVID-19 pandemic.

---

## **Q2: Who is eligible for Childcare P-EBT benefits?**

A: Vermont households receiving 3SquaresVT benefits with children under the age of six. Childcare P-EBT benefits will be issued for each month beginning September 2021 through June 2022 to eligible households.

---

## **Q3: How much is the Childcare P-EBT benefit?**

A: The childcare P-EBT benefit is \$32.31 per child per month for September 2021 – January 2022. The rate for February – June 2022 is \$33.55 per child per month.

---

## **Q4: How much is the Summer Childcare P-EBT benefit?**

A: The total benefit for childcare summer P-EBT is \$391 per child. Unlike the regular monthly Childcare benefit, the Summer Childcare P-EBT benefit is a flat-rate one-time benefit that covers both summer months of July and August.

---

## **Q5: When will Childcare P-EBT benefits be issued?**

A: The first round of benefits (for September 2021 – January 2022) will be issued in early June 2022. Children eligible for the P-EBT Childcare benefit will receive one payment for the benefit months of September through January for every month the household received 3SquaresVT benefits.

Benefits for February – June 2022 will be issued in September.

The Summer P-EBT Childcare payment will be made in September for households eligible for 3SquaresVT in July. For households with 3SquaresVT eligibility beginning in August, the Summer P-EBT Childcare benefit will be paid in October. These dates are subject to change, please continue to check this site for updated FAQs.

---

## **Q6: How do I find out if my household is eligible?**

A: Economic Services Division (ESD) will determine if your child is eligible, based on the criteria above. If you are eligible, you'll get a letter from ESD that explains how and when you'll get the benefit.

**Q7: If we are eligible, how will we receive these benefits?**

A: Childcare P-EBT benefits are issued on the EBT card that was issued to your household for your 3SquaresVT benefit.

---

**Q8: Custody for my child is split between two households. Who gets the benefit?**

A: The benefit will be sent to the adult who is listed as the 3SquaresVT Head of Household by ESD.

---

**Q9: What can I buy with this benefit?**

A: See the [list of eligible food items](#) on the USDA website.

---

**Q10: Where can I use my EBT card?**

A: You can use it to buy food at any location that accepts 3SquaresVT. This includes grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, and many farmers markets in Vermont. Learn more on DCF's [EBT web page](#).

---

**Q11: I don't have children in childcare. Do I get this benefit?**

A: Yes. All children under the age of six and who are receiving 3SquaresVT are eligible.

---

**Q12: I have other children older than six. Are they eligible for the childcare P-EBT benefit?**

A: No. The benefit is only available to children who are receiving 3SquaresVT and are under the age of six. Please see the School P-EBT FAQs for more information about benefits available for school-age children.

---

**Q13: What if I don't want this benefit?**

A: Participation is voluntary. If you choose not to participate, don't use the extra benefits issued on your 3SquaresVT EBT card.

---

**Q14: Will P-EBT benefits expire if they aren't spent?**

A: Yes. P-EBT benefits will expire if the card is not used within 274 days.

---

**Q15: I have more questions. Where can I learn more?**

A: Go to <https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/covid19/P-EBT> or call 1-800-479-6151 option 7 for more information.